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11.1 Jacobi Transformations of a Symmetric Matrix

The Jacobi method consists of a sequence of orthogonal similarity transformations of the form of equation (11.0.14). Each transformation (a *Jacobi rotation*) is just a plane rotation designed to annihilate one of the off-diagonal matrix elements. Successive transformations undo previously set zeros, but the off-diagonal elements nevertheless get smaller and smaller, until the matrix is diagonal to machine precision. Accumulating the product of the transformations as you go gives the matrix of eigenvectors, equation (11.0.15), while the elements of the final diagonal matrix are the eigenvalues.

The Jacobi method is absolutely foolproof for all real symmetric matrices. For matrices of order greater than about 10, say, the algorithm is slower, by a significant constant factor, than the *QR* method we shall give in §11.3. However, the Jacobi algorithm is much simpler than the more efficient methods. We thus recommend it for matrices of moderate order, where expense is not a major consideration.

The basic Jacobi rotation \mathbf{P}_{pq} is a matrix of the form

$$\mathbf{P}_{pq} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & & & & \\ & \ddots & & & \\ & & c & \cdots & s \\ & & \vdots & 1 & \vdots \\ & & -s & \cdots & c \\ & & & & \ddots \\ & & & & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (11.1.1)$$

Here all the diagonal elements are unity except for the two elements c in rows (and columns) p and q . All off-diagonal elements are zero except the two elements s and $-s$. The numbers c and s are the cosine and sine of a rotation angle ϕ , so $c^2 + s^2 = 1$.

A plane rotation such as (11.1.1) is used to transform the matrix \mathbf{A} according to

$$\mathbf{A}' = \mathbf{P}_{pq}^T \cdot \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{P}_{pq} \quad (11.1.2)$$

Now, $\mathbf{P}_{pq}^T \cdot \mathbf{A}$ changes only rows p and q of \mathbf{A} , while $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{P}_{pq}$ changes only columns p and q . Notice that the subscripts p and q do not denote components of \mathbf{P}_{pq} , but rather label which kind of rotation the matrix is, i.e., which rows and columns it affects. Thus the changed elements of \mathbf{A} in (11.1.2) are only in the p and q rows and columns indicated below:

$$\mathbf{A}' = \begin{bmatrix} \dots & a'_{1p} & \dots & a'_{1q} & \dots & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ a'_{p1} & \dots & a'_{pp} & \dots & a'_{pq} & \dots & a'_{pn} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ a'_{q1} & \dots & a'_{qp} & \dots & a'_{qq} & \dots & a'_{qn} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \dots & a'_{np} & \dots & a'_{nq} & \dots & \dots \end{bmatrix} \quad (11.1.3)$$

Multiplying out equation (11.1.2) and using the symmetry of \mathbf{A} , we get the explicit formulas

$$a'_{rp} = ca_{rp} - sa_{rq} \quad r \neq p, r \neq q \quad (11.1.4)$$

$$a'_{rq} = ca_{rq} + sa_{rp} \quad (11.1.5)$$

$$a'_{pp} = c^2 a_{pp} + s^2 a_{qq} - 2sca_{pq} \quad (11.1.6)$$

$$a'_{qq} = s^2 a_{pp} + c^2 a_{qq} + 2sca_{pq} \quad (11.1.7)$$

$$a'_{pq} = (c^2 - s^2)a_{pq} + sc(a_{pp} - a_{qq}) \quad (11.1.7)$$

The idea of the Jacobi method is to try to zero the off-diagonal elements by a series of plane rotations. Accordingly, to set $a'_{pq} = 0$, equation (11.1.7) gives the following expression for the rotation angle ϕ

$$\theta \equiv \cot 2\phi \equiv \frac{c^2 - s^2}{2sc} = \frac{a_{qq} - a_{pp}}{2a_{pq}} \quad (11.1.8)$$

If we let $t \equiv s/c$, the definition of θ can be rewritten

$$t^2 + 2t\theta - 1 = 0 \quad (11.1.9)$$

The smaller root of this equation corresponds to a rotation angle less than $\pi/4$ in magnitude; this choice at each stage gives the most stable reduction. Using the form of the quadratic formula with the discriminant in the denominator, we can write this smaller root as

$$t = \frac{\operatorname{sgn}(\theta)}{|\theta| + \sqrt{\theta^2 + 1}} \quad (11.1.10)$$

If θ is so large that θ^2 would overflow on the computer, we set $t = 1/(2\theta)$. It now follows that

$$c = \frac{1}{\sqrt{t^2 + 1}} \quad (11.1.11)$$

$$s = tc \quad (11.1.12)$$

When we actually use equations (11.1.4)–(11.1.7) numerically, we rewrite them to minimize roundoff error. Equation (11.1.7) is replaced by

$$a'_{pq} = 0 \quad (11.1.13)$$

The idea in the remaining equations is to set the new quantity equal to the old quantity plus a small correction. Thus we can use (11.1.7) and (11.1.13) to eliminate a_{qq} from (11.1.5), giving

$$a'_{pp} = a_{pp} - ta_{pq} \quad (11.1.14)$$

Similarly,

$$a'_{qq} = a_{qq} + ta_{pq} \quad (11.1.15)$$

$$a'_{rp} = a_{rp} - s(a_{rq} + \tau a_{rp}) \quad (11.1.16)$$

$$a'_{rq} = a_{rq} + s(a_{rp} - \tau a_{rq}) \quad (11.1.17)$$

where τ ($= \tan \phi/2$) is defined by

$$\tau \equiv \frac{s}{1 + c} \quad (11.1.18)$$

One can see the convergence of the Jacobi method by considering the sum of the squares of the off-diagonal elements

$$S = \sum_{r \neq s} |a_{rs}|^2 \quad (11.1.19)$$

Equations (11.1.4)–(11.1.7) imply that

$$S' = S - 2|a_{pq}|^2 \quad (11.1.20)$$

(Since the transformation is orthogonal, the sum of the squares of the diagonal elements increases correspondingly by $2|a_{pq}|^2$.) The sequence of S 's thus decreases monotonically. Since the sequence is bounded below by zero, and since we can choose a_{pq} to be whatever element we want, the sequence can be made to converge to zero.

Eventually one obtains a matrix \mathbf{D} that is diagonal to machine precision. The diagonal elements give the eigenvalues of the original matrix \mathbf{A} , since

$$\mathbf{D} = \mathbf{V}^T \cdot \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{V} \quad (11.1.21)$$

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where

$$\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{P}_1 \cdot \mathbf{P}_2 \cdot \mathbf{P}_3 \cdots \quad (11.1.22)$$

the \mathbf{P}_i 's being the successive Jacobi rotation matrices. The columns of \mathbf{V} are the eigenvectors (since $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{V} = \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{D}$). They can be computed by applying

$$\mathbf{V}' = \mathbf{V} \cdot \mathbf{P}_i \quad (11.1.23)$$

at each stage of calculation, where initially \mathbf{V} is the identity matrix. In detail, equation (11.1.23) is

$$\begin{aligned} v'_{rs} &= v_{rs} \quad (s \neq p, s \neq q) \\ v'_{rp} &= cv_{rp} - sv_{rq} \\ v'_{rq} &= sv_{rp} + cv_{rq} \end{aligned} \quad (11.1.24)$$

We rewrite these equations in terms of τ as in equations (11.1.16) and (11.1.17) to minimize roundoff.

The only remaining question is the strategy one should adopt for the order in which the elements are to be annihilated. Jacobi's original algorithm of 1846 searched the whole upper triangle at each stage and set the largest off-diagonal element to zero. This is a reasonable strategy for hand calculation, but it is prohibitive on a computer since the search alone makes each Jacobi rotation a process of order N^2 instead of N .

A better strategy for our purposes is the *cyclic Jacobi method*, where one annihilates elements in strict order. For example, one can simply proceed down the rows: $\mathbf{P}_{12}, \mathbf{P}_{13}, \dots, \mathbf{P}_{1n}$; then $\mathbf{P}_{23}, \mathbf{P}_{24}, \dots$, etc. One can show that convergence is generally quadratic for both the original or the cyclic Jacobi methods, for nondegenerate eigenvalues. One such set of $n(n - 1)/2$ Jacobi rotations is called a *sweep*.

The program below, based on the implementations in [1,2], uses two further refinements:

- In the first three sweeps, we carry out the pq rotation only if $|a_{pq}| > \epsilon$ for some threshold value

$$\epsilon = \frac{1}{5} \frac{S_0}{n^2} \quad (11.1.25)$$

where S_0 is the sum of the off-diagonal moduli,

$$S_0 = \sum_{r < s} |a_{rs}| \quad (11.1.26)$$

- After four sweeps, if $|a_{pq}| \ll |a_{pp}|$ and $|a_{pq}| \ll |a_{qq}|$, we set $|a_{pq}| = 0$ and skip the rotation. The criterion used in the comparison is $|a_{pq}| < 10^{-(D+2)}|a_{pp}|$, where D is the number of significant decimal digits on the machine, and similarly for $|a_{qq}|$.

In the following routine the $n \times n$ symmetric matrix $a(1:n, 1:n)$ is stored in an $np \times np$ array. On output, the superdiagonal elements of a are destroyed, but the diagonal and subdiagonal are unchanged and give full information on the original symmetric matrix a . The parameter d is a vector of length np . On output, it returns the eigenvalues of a in its first n elements. During the computation, it contains the current diagonal of a . The matrix v outputs the normalized eigenvector belonging to $d(k)$ in its k th column. The parameter $nrot$ is the number of Jacobi rotations that were needed to achieve convergence.

Typical matrices require 6 to 10 sweeps to achieve convergence, or $3n^2$ to $5n^2$ Jacobi rotations. Each rotation requires of order $4n$ operations, each consisting of a multiply and an add, so the total labor is of order $12n^3$ to $20n^3$ operations. Calculation of the eigenvectors as well as the eigenvalues changes the operation count from $4n$ to $6n$ per rotation, which is only a 50 percent overhead.

```
SUBROUTINE jacobi(a,n,np,d,v,nrot)
INTEGER n,np,nrot,NMAX
REAL a(np,np),d(np),v(np,np)
PARAMETER (NMAX=500)
Computes all eigenvalues and eigenvectors of a real symmetric matrix a, which is of size n
by n, stored in a physical np by np array. On output, elements of a above the diagonal are
destroyed. d returns the eigenvalues of a in its first n elements. v is a matrix with the same
logical and physical dimensions as a, whose columns contain, on output, the normalized
eigenvectors of a. nrot returns the number of Jacobi rotations that were required.
INTEGER i,ip,iq,j
REAL c,g,h,s,sm,t,tau,theta,tresh,b(NMAX),z(NMAX)
do 12 ip=1,n
    Initialize to the identity matrix.
    do 11 iq=1,n
        v(ip,iq)=0.
    enddo 11
    v(ip,ip)=1.
  enddo 12
do 13 ip=1,n
    b(ip)=a(ip,ip)
    d(ip)=b(ip)
    z(ip)=0.
  enddo 13
nrot=0
do 24 i=1,50
    sm=0.
    do 15 ip=1,n-1
        do 14 iq=ip+1,n
            sm=sm+abs(a(ip,iq))
        enddo 14
    enddo 15
    if(sm.eq.0.)return
    if(i.lt.4)then
        tresh=0.2*sm/n**2
    else
        tresh=0.
    endif
    do 22 ip=1,n-1
        do 21 iq=ip+1,n
            g=100.*abs(a(ip,iq))
            After four sweeps, skip the rotation if the off-diagonal element is small.
            if((i.gt.4).and.(abs(d(ip))+g.eq.abs(d(ip)))
               .and.(abs(d(iq))+g.eq.abs(d(iq))))then
                a(ip,iq)=0.
            else if(abs(a(ip,iq)).gt.tresh)then
                h=d(iq)-d(ip)
                if(abs(h)+g.eq.abs(h))then
*
```

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```

t=a(ip,iq)/h      t = 1/(2θ)
else
    theta=0.5*h/a(ip,iq)      Equation (11.1.10).
    t=1./(abs(theta)+sqrt(1.+theta**2))
    if(theta.lt.0.)t=-t
endif
c=1./sqrt(1+t**2)
s=t*c
tau=s/(1.+c)
h=t*a(ip,iq)
z(ip)=z(ip)-h
z(iq)=z(iq)+h
d(ip)=d(ip)-h
d(iq)=d(iq)+h
a(ip,iq)=0.
do 16 j=1,ip-1      Case of rotations 1 ≤ j < p.
    g=a(j,ip)
    h=a(j,iq)
    a(j,ip)=g-s*(h+g*tau)
    a(j,iq)=h+s*(g-h*tau)
enddo 16
do 17 j=ip+1,iq-1    Case of rotations p < j < q.
    g=a(ip,j)
    h=a(j,iq)
    a(ip,j)=g-s*(h+g*tau)
    a(j,iq)=h+s*(g-h*tau)
enddo 17
do 18 j=iq+1,n       Case of rotations q < j ≤ n.
    g=a(ip,j)
    h=a(iq,j)
    a(ip,j)=g-s*(h+g*tau)
    a(iq,j)=h+s*(g-h*tau)
enddo 18
do 19 j=1,n
    g=v(j,ip)
    h=v(j,iq)
    v(j,ip)=g-s*(h+g*tau)
    v(j,iq)=h+s*(g-h*tau)
enddo 19
nrot=nrot+1
endif
enddo 21
enddo 22
do 23 ip=1,n
    b(ip)=b(ip)+z(ip)
    d(ip)=b(ip)           Update d with the sum of tapq,
    z(ip)=0.                and reinitialize z.
enddo 23
enddo 24
pause 'too many iterations in jacobi'
return
END

```

Note that the above routine assumes that underflows are set to zero. On machines where this is not true, the program must be modified.

The eigenvalues are not ordered on output. If sorting is desired, the following routine can be invoked to reorder the output of `jacobi` or of later routines in this chapter. (The method, straight insertion, is N^2 rather than $N \log N$; but since you have just done an N^3 procedure to get the eigenvalues, you can afford yourself this little indulgence.)

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```

SUBROUTINE eigsrt(d,v,n,np)
INTEGER n,np
REAL d(np),v(np,np)
Given the eigenvalues d and eigenvectors v as output from jacobi (§11.1) or tqqli (§11.3),
this routine sorts the eigenvalues into descending order, and rearranges the columns of v
correspondingly. The method is straight insertion.
INTEGER i,j,k
REAL p
do 13 i=1,n-1
  k=i
  p=d(i)
  do 11 j=i+1,n
    if(d(j).ge.p)then
      k=j
      p=d(j)
    endif
  enddo 11
  if(k.ne.i)then
    d(k)=d(i)
    d(i)=p
    do 12 j=1,n
      p=v(j,i)
      v(j,i)=v(j,k)
      v(j,k)=p
    enddo 12
  endif
  endif
13 enddo 13
return
END

```

CITED REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING:

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11.2 Reduction of a Symmetric Matrix to Tridiagonal Form: Givens and Householder Reductions

As already mentioned, the optimum strategy for finding eigenvalues and eigenvectors is, first, to reduce the matrix to a simple form, only then beginning an iterative procedure. For symmetric matrices, the preferred simple form is tridiagonal. The *Givens reduction* is a modification of the Jacobi method. Instead of trying to reduce the matrix all the way to diagonal form, we are content to stop when the matrix is tridiagonal. This allows the procedure to be carried out *in a finite number of steps*, unlike the Jacobi method, which requires iteration to convergence.

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